



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE SALE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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**Office of Petroleum Reserves
Washington, DC**

THE NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE SALE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION:

The Department of Energy maintains a regional distillate reserve in the Northeast, known as the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve (NEHHOR). The authorized size of the Reserve is two million barrels of heating oil. Storage facilities consist of one million barrels located on New York harbor, 750,000 barrels in New Haven, Connecticut and 250,000 barrels in Groton, Connecticut. In the event the President should make a finding of a "severe energy supply interruption," as defined by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, the Department of Energy would sell and distribute some or all of the heating oil contained in the Reserve. This is the Department's proposed plan for selling and distributing the oil.

II. BACKGROUND:

The Energy Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-469), enacted on November 9, 2000, amended the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Public Law 94-163) and authorized the Secretary of Energy "to establish, maintain, and operate in the Northeast a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve," containing no more than two million barrels of petroleum distillate. Under the law, the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve is not a component of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under Title I on the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. On March 6, 2001, the Secretary of Energy formally announced the permanent establishment of the Reserve, separate from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The Department of Energy has contracts for two million barrels of storage capacity and storage services with two companies: Amerada Hess, which has a contract for storing one million barrels of heating oil in its terminals on the New Jersey side of New York harbor, and 250,000 barrels in Groton, Connecticut; and Morgan Stanley, which has a contract for storing 750,000 barrels of heating oil at the MMP, LP terminal in New Haven, Connecticut. Storage contracts are for one year, with three one-year options for renewal, expiring September 30, 2011.

Title II of Public Law 106-469 provided two bases for the discretionary release of oil from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. The Secretary may release the oil from the Reserve only upon a finding by the President that a severe energy supply interruption exists. Such a finding is made if it is determined that a dislocation in the heating oil market has resulted from the interruption or that a circumstance exists resulting in a significant regional supply shortage that could be ameliorated by the release of the oil. The definition of a dislocation in the heating oil market is specified in the law.

III. SALES METHOD:

The Department considered a number of alternative strategies for the sale of the heating oil in the Reserve. Should the President order a drawdown of the Reserve, the Secretary may sell the oil competitively by online auction. Standard sales provisions are posted on the Fossil Energy web page (<https://www.fossil.energy.gov/heatingoil/docs/salesprovisions.pdf>).

Under the competitive sales process, applicants will submit bids over a specified time period via the Fossil Energy web page. At the close of the offering, contract awards will be confirmed to successful bidders. Public announcement of the sale results will occur slightly later. In order to react as quickly as possible to an emergency situation, the Department anticipates that the sales process will be completed in no longer than two days.

A. Registration:

A list of potential bidders for a sale of heating oil from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve is maintained by the Office of Petroleum Reserves, Washington, DC. Companies or individuals who desire prompt notification of an imminent Northeast Home Heating Oil sale may register via the Fossil Energy web site http://www.fossil.energy.gov/programs/reserves/heatingoil/Online_Bidding_System.html. They will receive notification by e-mail when the Presidential announcement has been made and the Notice of Sale is issued.

B. Sales Notification and Schedule:

Immediately following a finding by the President to draw down the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve, the Department will issue a Notice of Sale and notify all registered companies. The notice will be posted on the Fossil Energy web site and specify the amount, characteristics and location of the heating oil to be sold, procedures for submitting bids and the delivery period. Receipt of bids will begin as specified in the online posting.

Under the most likely scenario, the bidding will open the day after the Notice of Sale is posted. The platform will be open for 2-3 hours and close at approximately noon Eastern Time. Potential buyers will submit bids through the Department's secure electronic sales platform. Bids will be anonymous to other bidders and will specify the quantity, location and price expressed as a premium to the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) near month closing price for heating oil on the day of the bidding. Companies may submit multiple bids. A bidder must provide a financial guarantee of \$250,000 by electronic transfer to the location designated by the Notice of Sale prior to submission of his bids. The Department of Energy will verify guarantee receipt with the Department of Treasury. The financial guarantee must be received by the time specified in the Notice of Sale.

The premium values of the winning bids will be indicated on the auction platform. Following the auction close, contract award will be confirmed by the Department of Energy. Public announcement of companies with winning bids will occur the same day after the close of the NYMEX. Financial guarantees will be returned to unsuccessful bidders in five days.

A typical schedule for an online auction of the Northeast Home Heating Oil might be:

Day 1	Presidential Finding
	Notify registered companies and wire services
	Post Notice of Sale
	Begin receipt of financial guarantees
Day 2	
10:00 a.m.	Open bidding
Noon	Close bidding
Post NYMEX close	Public announcement of successful bidders

C. Volumes Offered, Purchaser Volume Restrictions:

The Notice of Sale will specify the maximum quantities to be sold from each terminal location and maximum quantity award restrictions per company. The Department will determine the total volume of heating oil to be offered based on market conditions at the time of the sale. Bids must be expressed in multiples of 50,000 barrels. Multiple bids may be submitted, but no one company will be awarded more than 40 percent of the heating oil offered at any one geographical location (i.e. New York Harbor or New England). This limitation is intended to prevent any potential for a monopoly position in the resale of the oil. The Department reserves the right to limit the total volume awarded based on the reasonableness of the bids (including not awarding any sales contracts).

A public briefing may be provided to interested firms prior to the notice of sale being posted on line. This briefing will explain to the firms how a bid is submitted.

D. Payment:

Heating oil from the Reserve will be delivered on a prepaid basis only. The buyer will be required to remit payment to the Government within 48 hours following notification of award, or prior to taking delivery if less than 48 hours. The bid financial guarantee may be applied toward this payment. A failure to prepay may result in the Government selling the oil to another party and forfeiture of the bid guarantee.

IV. DISTRIBUTION PLAN:

The distribution plan for the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve is based on maximum use of the commercial terminal infrastructure and industry procedures in place, since the greatest potential for efficient and expeditious distribution of the heating oil stocks rests with the industry performing these functions.

Under the Government's storage contracts, the terminals have the responsibility to:

- provide inventory management and quality control of the Government's stocks;
- provide full availability of the Government's product in the event of a release;
- provide the capability to deliver all the Government's product within 10 days on a 24 hour notice; and
- provide the capability to distribute heating oil by tanker/barge and truck facilities.

Distribution:

The Government's heating oil will be sold and delivered to the buyer F.O.B. the terminals in New Haven and Groton, CT and New York Harbor. The ownership of the heating oil will be transferred to the buyer at the terminal, and the buyer will assume full responsibility for distribution arrangements. Subject to limitations of the terminal, buyers will be able to ship heating oil by ship, barge, truck and pipeline (where available).

The Government's heating oil will be distributed from two MMP, LP terminals in New Haven, CT, one Amerada Hess terminal in Groton, CT and from up to four Amerada Hess terminals in the New York Harbor area: First Reserve, Port Reading, Bayonne, and Newark. Descriptions of the available distribution capabilities for each terminal can be found in the Terminal Data Appendix of the Distribution Plan.

In recommending to the President that the Reserve should be drawn down, the Secretary of Energy may include a further recommendation that the President direct the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to waive compliance with the coastwise laws affecting marine deliveries of heating oil from the Reserve, which will include the law referred to as the "Jones Act".

The buyer of the heating oil will be responsible for all transportation arrangements and costs. Within 24 hours of being awarded a heating oil contract by the Department, the buyer must advise the Department and the terminals of the desired delivery mode(s) and respective volumes. The buyer must make arrangements to have delivery of their oil take place within ten days of award.

Vessel and barge nominations and assignment of lifting windows must be in accordance with the terminals' scheduling procedures. Truck liftings will be subject to terminal capacities and restrictions. Pipeline nominations will be in accordance with the pipeline company's procedures.